

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03  
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00  
IO-14 /087 W

-----072048 101731Z /41

O 101709Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7494

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06451

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, US, GW, TV  
SUBJECT: GENSCHER INTERVIEW ON US-FRG RELATIONS

REF: BONN 6417

FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT OF THE  
APRIL 9 BONNER PERSPEKTIVEN INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN  
MINISTER GENSCHER CITED IN REFTEL.

BEGIN TEXT:

INTERVIEWER: MR. FOREIGN MINISTER, HAVE GERMAN-AMERICAN  
RELATIONS, WHICH HAVE FOR YEARS BEEN MARKED BY GREAT  
RELIABILITY, ENTERED A PHASE OF UNCERTAINTY?

GENSCHER: THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT THE CASE. I BELIEVE  
THAT EVERY POLICY MAKER IN THIS COUNTRY IS AWARE, AS IS  
ALSO THE CASE ON THE AMERICAN SIDE, OF THE VITAL IM-  
PORTANCE OF GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS TO THE RELATION-  
SHIP BETWEEN AMERICA AND EUROPE AND PRIMARILY TO THE  
SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY. I BELIEVE THAT THE DISCUSSION  
THAT IS BEING CONDUCTED AT PRESENT SHOULD TAKE PLACE  
AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND AND IN THIS AWARENESS.

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INTERVIEWER: ARE THE AMERICANS DISAPPOINTED OVER OUR  
ATTITUDE VIS-A-VIS THE NEUTRON BOMB? DID THEY EXPECT  
STRONGER PARTICIPATION IN THE SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM?

GENSCHER: THIS IS NOT MY IMPRESSION.

INTERVIEWER: DOES WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THUS FAR; THAT IS, THE TEMPORARY STOP ORDERED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, MEAN A WEAKENING OF THIS INSTRUMENT IN THE DISARMAMENT TALKS?

GENSCHER: THE PRESIDENT HAS KEPT OPEN THE OPTION FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON. NOW IT WILL MAINLY DEPEND ON HOW WE USE THIS OPTION IN DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL POLICY AND HOW WE DISCUSS IT. IT IS ACTUALLY UP TO US TO DETERMINE AND USE THE WEIGHT OF THE EXISTING OPTION AND POSSIBILITIES. AND, I BELIEVE THAT THE DISCUSSION NOT ONLY IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE BUT ALSO IN OUR COUNTRY SHOULD NOW CONCENTRATE ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF DRAWING PROFIT FROM THIS DECISION FOR ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT. THIS MEANS WE MUST ASK THE SOVIET UNION WHAT IT IS READY TO DO IN ORDER TO RENDER A CONTRIBUTION TOWARD DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL. FOR THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE (SOVIET) OFFENSIVE POTENTIAL IN THE CONVENTIONAL FIELD, THE TANK SUPERIORITY, AND THE CONSIDERABLE PROBLEMS IN THE INTERMEDIATE-RANGE NUCLEAR MISSILES.

INTERVIEWER: YOU WERE REFERRING TO THE DISCUSSION IN OUR OWN COUNTRY, MR. GENSCHER. THIS DISCUSSION HAS BEEN VERY LIVELY, WITHIN THE PARTIES AND AMONG PARTY FRIENDS, AND WITH VERY CONTROVERSIAL UNCLASSIFIED

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POSITIONS. THE DISCUSSION ABOUT THIS QUESTION WILL CONTINUE. WILL A REGARD FOR THE DOMESTIC IMPORTANCE OF THIS QUESTION RESTRICT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC'S CAPABILITY TO ACT IN THE FOREIGN POLICY FIELD?

GENSCHER? THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S CAPABILITY TO ACT IN THE FOREIGN POLICY FIELD HAS NOT BEEN, AND WILL NOT BE, RESTRICTED BY THIS DISCUSSION. I CONSIDER SUCH DISCUSSION TO BE A MATTER OF COURSE. INCIDENTALLY, THIS DISCUSSION DID NOT TAKE PLACE ONLY IN OUR COUNTRY, BUT ALSO IN THE OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND IN THE UNITED STATES. THIS IS QUITE NATURAL.

INTERVIEWER: THERE WAS SOME DISAPPOINTMENT IN OUR COUNTRY OVER THE FACT THAT THE AMERICANS ORIGINALLY DID NOT HAVE MUCH SYMPATHY FOR OUR NUCLEAR DEAL WITH BRAZIL. HAS THIS QUESTION BEEN FINALLY SETTLED; IS THIS DEAL FINALLY SECURE?

GENSCHER: IT IS SECURE. IT IS TRUE THAT ANOTHER

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PROBLEM CAME UP IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW NUCLEAR LAW  
PASSED BY THE AMERICAN CONGRESS. BUT WE DETERMINED  
AFTER A THOROUGH STUDY OF THIS LAW THAT IT DOES NOT  
AFFECT OUR CONTRACT WITH BRAZIL, AND THE AMERICAN  
GOVERNMENT EXPLICITLY CONFIRMED THIS LEGAL POSITION  
WHEN I VISITED WASHINGTON THE OTHER DAY.

INTERVIEWER: BUT IS THIS NOT AN EXCEPTIONAL CASE?  
WOULD NOT THE DISCUSSION START ANEW IN FUTURE CASES  
OF A SIMILAR NATURE?

GENSCHER: WE ARE NOW TALKING -- OR I HAD BETTER SAY,  
WE WILL START TALKING -- WITH THE UNITED STATES AS  
THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. THIS IS WHAT THE AMERICANS  
WISH TO DO IN DEALING WITH THESE QUESTIONS. IT IS  
FORTUNATE THAT, AS EARLY AS LAST YEAR, WE EUROPEANS  
AGREED WITH THE UNITED STATES AND A NUMBER OF OTHER  
COUNTRIES TO EXAMINE THE PROBLEMS OF THE PEACEFUL USE  
OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR  
THEIR SOLUTION. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THESE TALKS,  
AND SUPPLEMENTARY TO THESE TALKS, WE ALSO WILL HAVE TO  
FIND SOLUTIONS FOR THE PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM THE NEW  
AMERICAN LEGISLATION.

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INTERVIEWER: THEORETICALLY SPEAKING, MR. MINISTER, ACCORDING TO THIS LAW, A CESSATION OF THE SUPPLY OF AMERICAN URANIUM FOR OUR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS COULD BE IMPOSED AS EARLY AS TOMORROW. HAS THIS DANGER ALSO BEEN ELIMINATED?

GENSCHER: A DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AS TO ITS READINESS TO START TALKS IS STILL REQUIRED. HOWEVER, I AM CONFIDENT IN THIS REGARD, ALL THE MORE SO IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES; THAT IS, THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WHICH IS BOUND BY THIS LAW TO START SUCH TALKS, TAKES A VERY FLEXIBLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE IN THIS MATTER.

INTERVIEWER: MR. MINISTER, WASHINGTON HAS FOR A LONG TIME EXPRESSED THE DESIRE THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WITH ALL ITS ECONOMIC POWER PURSUE A STRONGER POLICY OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND GIVE IMPETUS TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE, AND THE WORLD AT LARGE. BECAUSE OF THE WAVE OF INFLATION SUCH A POLICY MIGHT CREATE, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THUS FAR HAS NOT SHOWN MUCH SYMPATHY FOR THIS SUGGESTION. WILL WE, TOGETHER WITH OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS, MAKE CONCESSIONS TO THE AMERICANS IN THIS RESPECT AFTER THE COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE?

GENSCHER: WELL, IN THE FIRST PLACE WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT EFFECTS WILL RESULT FROM THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. APART FROM THIS, THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE THIS SUMMER, WILL OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE EUROPEANS, NORTH AMERICANS AND JAPANESE TO DISCUSS NOT ONLY COMMON PROBLEMS BUT ALSO COMMON POSSIBILITIES OF SOLUTION. I

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THINK THAT WILL BE THE TIME TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS.

INTERVIEWER: NOTWITHSTANDING THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDED HERE, MR. MINISTER, A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS REMAIN PENDING IN THE GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP. DO YOU SEE THE DANGER THAT THE TWO PARTNERS WILL HINDER AND OVERTAX EACH OTHER WITH THEIR CLAIMS AND WISHES?

GENSCHER: I SEE NO SUCH DANGER, IF ONLY BECAUSE WE REMAIN IN CLOSE AND INTENSIVE CONTACT. IN THE MAIN, HOWEVER, I SEE NO SUCH DANGER BECAUSE IN VERY WIDE AREAS OF OUR RESPECTIVE FOREIGN POLICIES, OUR SENSE OF VALUES AND OUR ECONOMIC POLICIES THERE IS SUCH A HIGH DEGREE OF CONSENSUS THAT THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE TO DISCUSS ARE

NOT IN THE FOREGROUND. NOR ARE THEY DETERMINING  
ELEMENTS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP.

END TEXT.  
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